

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed December 8, 2003, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on December 1, 2000; January 31, 2001, September 10, 2001; October 15, 2001; February 14, 2002; February 25, 2002; May 1, 2002; and November 25, 2002.

Applicant notes the *partial* consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements (IDS) filed on August 25, 2003 and September 10, 2003. Paragraph 20 of the Official Action indicates that the Office has misplaced the non-patent literature and the Japanese patent Abstracts. In order to facilitate the Examiner's consideration of the references, Applicant hereby submits the best available copies of the references and English language abstracts for the same, as appropriate. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide a further initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 submitted August 23, 2003 and September 10, 2003, evidencing consideration of the references submitted therewith. A further copy of the Form PTO-1449s are provided for the Examiner's convenience. If any references remain outstanding, it is requested that the undersigned be contacted so that copies can be promptly provided for the Examiner's consideration.

Claims 2-23 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. Claims 2-7 have been amended to further clarify the subject invention. Accordingly, claims 2-23 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 2-7 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Paragraph 3 of the Official Action rejects claims 2 and 3 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,422,302 to Yonehara. Paragraph 5 of the Official Action rejects claims 4-7, 12, 15, 18, and 21 as anticipated by Yonehara. Paragraph 10 of the Official Action rejects claims 8 and 10 as obvious based on the combination of Yonehara and EP 0 390 608. Paragraph 12 of the Official Action rejects claims 9, 11, 14, 16, 17, 20, and 23 as obvious based on the combination of Yonehara, EP 0 390 608 and U.S. Patent 5,294,560 to Ono et al. Finally, paragraph 14 of the Official Action rejects claims 13, 16, 19, and 22 as obvious based on the combination of Yonehara, EP 0 390 608 and U.S. Patent 4,740,829 to Nakagiri et al.

In each instance, it appears that the outstanding rejections are substantially the same as previously asserted in the Official Action of February 25, 2003. Paragraph 8 of the Official Action indicates that the Examiner takes the position that the plurality of crystal grains includes providing more than one TFT on the substrate and that Applicants have not distinguished the difference between the polycrystals and single crystals as taught by Yonehara.

Amended claims 2-7 recite that the semiconductor device comprises a thin film transistor comprising a crystalline semiconductor film comprising silicon, comprising a channel formation region comprising a plurality of crystal grains extending in a same direction. That is, at least one thin film transistor comprises a plurality of crystal grains (polycrystals) extending in a same direction. By the above amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are distinguished over Yonehara and the other prior art of record. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Paragraph 19 of the Official Action rejects claims 4-7 and 12-23 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-26 of U.S. Patent No. 6,160,279 to Zhang. It is respectfully requested that this rejection be held in abeyance until such time as allowable subject matter is indicated. At that time, any remaining double patenting rejections will be fully addressed.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to

contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric J. Robinson

Reg. No. 38,285

Robinson Intellectual Property Law Office, P.C.

PMB 955

21010 Southbank Street

Potomac Falls, Virginia 20165

(571) 434-6789